

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 8, 22, 29 and 31 without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter.

Please add Claims 33-36 to read as follows:

Claims 1-32 (Cancelled).

33. (New) A speech recognition apparatus comprising:

storage means for storing a keyword corresponding to an external speech recognition apparatus;

first receiving means for receiving speech information;

decision means for deciding whether or not the speech information received by said receiving means includes a keyword stored in said storing means;

second receiving means for, if said decision means decides that the speech information includes a keyword stored in said storage means, sending the speech information except for the keyword portion to an external speech recognition apparatus corresponding to the keyword, and receiving a speech recognition result from the external speech recognition apparatus; and

speech recognition means for, if said decision means decides that the speech information does not include a keyword stored in said storage means, recognizing the speech information.

34. (New) A speech recognition method performed on a speech recognition apparatus which recognizes speech information, said method comprising:

- a first receiving step of receiving speech information;
- a decision step of deciding whether or not the speech information received in said receiving step includes a keyword corresponding to an external speech recognition apparatus;
- a second receiving step of, if said decision step decides that the speech information includes a keyword corresponding to an external speech recognition apparatus, sending the speech information except for the keyword portion to the external speech recognition apparatus corresponding to the keyword, and receiving a speech recognition result from the external speech recognition apparatus; and
- a speech recognition step of, if said decision step decides that the speech information does not include the keyword, recognizing the speech information.

35. (New) A storage medium that stores a control program for making a computer implement the speech recognition method claimed in claim 34.

36. (New) A control program for making a computer implement the speech recognition method claimed in claim 34.